

November 12, 1973

LTG Vernon A. Walters, USA  
Deputy Director, CIA  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear General Walters: *Vernon,*

Your attention is invited to the enclosed Special Announcement of my appointment as Superintendent of the Valley Forge Military Academy and Junior College.

Today our society faces a crisis in its moral leadership which I believe applies to just about every field of endeavor. It is my belief that military schools, with their emphasis upon education of the "whole man", can solve this crisis. This conviction is detailed in my statement, "The Role of the Military Academy in Today's Society", which is printed on the reverse side of the enclosure. Accordingly, I accepted the position at Valley Forge believing that I can make a contribution to our society by helping to train future leaders of America.

Believing, too, that the military leadership of our country has a special awareness of the values of a military education, I am writing to you with the thought that you may wish to bring to the attention of your friends the character development, leadership training and educational opportunities awaiting young men who attend Valley Forge Military Academy and Junior College. Cadets are enrolled in grades seven through twelve and in the freshman and sophomore years of college. The United States Army Junior and Senior ROTC programs are a part of the military education provided.

You are cordially invited to make further inquiries regarding the educational opportunities at Valley Forge and to visit the Valley Forge campus as our guest. Your views regarding military education and training and its value to our society will be enthusiastically welcomed by me.

Sincerely,

*Willard Pearson*

Willard Pearson  
Lt. General, USA (Ret)  
Superintendent

Encl: (1)



# Valley Forge Military Academy Foundation

## *Special Announcement*

November 11, 1973

We are very pleased to announce that Lt. General Willard Pearson has become Superintendent of Valley Forge Military Academy and Junior College.

This appointment climaxes a long and conscientious search for a person with outstanding qualifications and experience to serve in this demanding leadership post. We were fortunate to find such a highly-qualified gentleman. A military commander, scholar and writer, General Pearson succeeds Maj. General Robert W. Strong, Jr., USAF (Ret.).

General Pearson, who is 58, was Commanding General of the V Corps in Germany prior to his Army retirement in June. He holds Master's Degrees from Columbia University and George Washington University and has studied at Oxford University and the University of Pittsburgh. As a student at Columbia he was elected to membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the honorary scholastic fraternity for graduate business students.

A native of West Elizabeth, Pa., General Pearson's recent Army service also included the posts of Commanding General of Fort Lewis, Wash., and Director of Individual Training for the Department of the Army. He is the author of a number of articles published in service journals. One entitled "Alaska, Gibraltar of the North," was considered by Senator Edward L. Bartlett (Alaska) to be of such strategic significance to the American people that it was reprinted in the Congressional Record.

He entered the Army as a First Lieutenant in 1940 and served in command and staff positions through World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. He was in the latter for 28 months, first as Commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and later served on the staff of General W. C. Westmoreland, Commander of our forces in Vietnam.

A highly-decorated officer, he prizes the German Federal Great Cross with Star, one of the highest honors given by the German government. It was presented to him for his programs to improve German-American relationships which he instituted as Commander of V Corps. There are 14 Oak Leaf Clusters on his American medals — the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and the Air Medal.

The new Superintendent, who was selected from more than 60 candidates screened by a special Foundation committee, comes highly recommended by a number of Army leaders including Assistant Secretary of the Army Hadlai A. Hull and General W. C. Westmoreland, former Army Chief of Staff.

An enthusiast for jogging and hiking, he was the highest ranking officer in history to complete the 56th Annual International 100-Mile March in Nijmegen, Holland, last year. He is also a mountain climber, having scaled the 14,410-Foot Mt. Rainier in Washington in 1970, and a parachutist with 68 jumps as an infantryman and seven free falls as a novice sports parachutist. He is also a student of mnemonics.

General Pearson is married to the former Reba E. Barton, of Washington, D. C., and they have three children: Richard, who is in Frankfurt, Germany; Mrs. Joan Shade, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, who is now studying for an advanced degree at Arizona State University; and Patricia, a freshman student at Penn State.



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## THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

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The traditional role of military academies has been to build young men physically, mentally, morally and socially; to provide a solid academic foundation for further study, and prepare graduates to assume leadership roles as citizens. Despite the social revolution which began in the 60's, this role remains unchanged.

In this era of continuing change and social ferment, concerned parents are looking for institutions that can still provide these traditional values. They are rightfully concerned because of the influences and conditions in our society and its schools which affect the growth, development and education of their children. Drug addiction, alcohol abuse, racial tension, overcrowding, a poor curriculum, teachers' strikes, crime amongst youth, and a permissive atmosphere with an attendant lowering of standards of dress, conduct and self-discipline, influence parents in the selection of a school for their sons.

Military academies are remarkably free of these conditions. Their environment of close and personal attention and educational thrust preserve those cherished values of our society which made America great. Furthermore, military academies provide an added bonus extending beyond the classroom with their emphasis on an honor code, self-discipline, integrity and patriotism. This education and training prepare graduates for real life experiences and develops within them the moral leadership needed in our society today.

*Willard Pearson*

WILLARD PEARSON  
Lt. General, USA (Ret)  
Superintendent

